Amendments to the Claims

1-24. (Canceled)

25-81. (Canceled)

82.   (New) A method of creating a program table to define a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, said method comprising the steps of:

utilizing a constraint condition solution unit to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents; and

utilizing said constraint condition solution unit to create said program table again through the use of a constraint solution technique with time length of each of said plurality of contents unchanged, by introducing a new constraint condition according to priorities of said constraint conditions.

83.   (New) The method according to claim 82, further comprising a step of utilizing a tree structure unit to express said program table by a tree structure having one or a plurality of hierarchies in which elements indicative of said contents constituting said program table are disposed in a lowest-rank layer and elements summarizing features of lower-rank elements are disposed in a rank higher with respect to the elements indicative of said contents;

wherein time length of each of said elements summarizing features of said lower-rank elements has some range.

84.   (New) A method of creating a program table to define a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, said method comprising the steps of:

utilizing a constraint condition solution unit to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a

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selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents;

wherein said constraint condition solution unit creates said program table on the basis of a correlation between said contents, by referring scores set with respect to said plurality of contents according to user's liking information.

85.   (New) The method according to claim 84, wherein an arrangement of said contents is determined on the basis of a pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis.

86.   (New) The method according to claim 84, wherein an arrangement of said contents is optimized so that a correlation between said contents adjacent to each other reaches a maximum as a whole.

87.   (New) A program table creation device for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the device comprising;

a constraint condition solution unit that creates said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents;

wherein said constraint condition solution unit creates said program table again through the use of a constraint solution technique with time length of each of said plurality of contents unchanged, by introducing a new constraint condition according to priorities of said constraint conditions.

88.   (New) The program table creation device according to claim 87, further comprising a tree structure unit that expresses said program table by a tree structure having one or a plurality of hierarchies in which elements indicative of said contents constituting said program table are disposed in a lowest-rank layer and elements summarizing features of

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lower-rank elements are disposed in a rank higher with respect to the elements indicative of said contents;

wherein time length of each of said elements summarizing features of said lower-rank elements has some range.

89.   (New) A program table creation device for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the device comprising;

a constraint condition solution unit that creates said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents;

wherein said constraint condition solution unit creates said program table on the basis of a correlation between said contents, by referring scores set with respect to said plurality of contents according to user's liking information.

90.   (New) The program table creation device according to claim 89, wherein an arrangement of said contents is determined on the basis of a pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis.

91.   (New) The program table creation device according to claim 90, wherein an arrangement of said contents is optimized so that a correlation between said contents adjacent to each other reaches a maximum as a whole.

92.   (New) A program table creation system for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the system comprising:

a program table creation server existing in a predetermined network, so arranged as to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents, and create said program table again through the use of a constraint solution technique with

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time length of each of said plurality of contents unchanged, by introducing a new constraint condition according to priorities of said constraint conditions, and

a communication unit connectable with said predetermined network and capable of transmitting said constraint condition through said predetermined network to said program table creation server and receiving said program table created by said program table creation server.

93.   (New) The program table creation system according to claim 92, further comprising a tree structure unit that expresses said program table by a tree structure having one or a plurality of hierarchies in which elements indicative of said contents constituting said program table are disposed in a lowest-rank layer and elements summarizing features of lower-rank elements are disposed in a rank higher with respect to the elements indicative of said contents;

wherein time length of each of said elements summarizing features of said lower-rank elements has some range.

94.   (New) A program table creation system for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the system comprising:

a program table creation server existing in a predetermined network, so arranged as to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents, and create said program table on the basis of a correlation between said contents, by referring scores set with respect to said plurality of contents according to user's liking information, and

a communication unit connectable with said predetermined network and capable of transmitting said constraint condition through said predetermined network to said program table creation server and receiving said program table created by said program table creation server.

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95.   (New) The program table creation system according to claim 94, wherein an arrangement of said contents is determined on the basis of a pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis.

96.   (New) The program table creation system according to claim 94, wherein an arrangement of said contents is optimized so that a correlation between said contents adjacent to each other reaches a maximum as a whole.

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